

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC—EWI PROVINCE

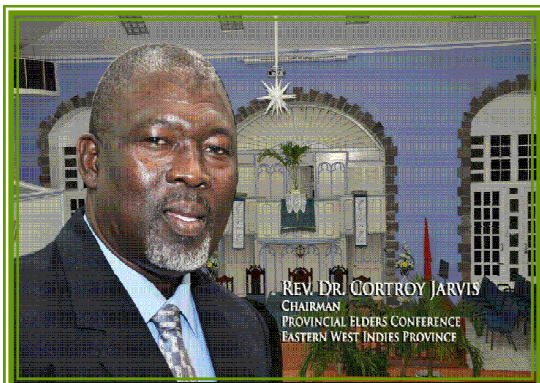
The Information

Then the man said, *"Let me go, for it is daybreak."* But Jacob replied, *"I will not let you go unless you bless me."*
Genesis 32 vs. 26 [NIV]

May, 2010



Can Pentecost be experienced again?



Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit in the form of flames to the followers of Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament. Jesus had told them to wait until the Spirit came to them. The Spirit when it descended upon them, empowered them and gave them their marching orders for Ministry.

The miracle that occurred at Pentecost sends us a message we need to hear. It is the message that we ought to concentrate on, the language that does unite us, despite all worldly differences, the language of the Spirit of God changes things. We all carry a yearning for God in our hearts. We all live on earth with the Holy Spirit within us and among us. We all are in community because of that, and God yearns, for us to know it and to live it. God wants us to be in community with all its nurturing gifts and its call to us to minister to one another.

The miracle I referred to a moment ago took place on the day known as Pentecost – which literally means fiftieth. It was the ancient "feast of harvest," "the day of the first fruits." Besides the sacrifices prescribed for the occasion, every one was to bring to the Lord his "tribute of a free-will offering."

The purpose of this feast was to commemorate the completion of the grain harvest. It was on this high holy Jewish holiday in the City of Jerusalem, 2000 years ago, that peoples of all nations gathered to worship and celebrate. Multitudes were doing just that when suddenly they all started speaking in various tongues, or languages, yet everyone present was able to understand what was said all around them. They understood it in their own native language.

This miracle occurred as the Gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the Church, one of whose most important characteristics is community, community that is made possible by this Holy Spirit. This *agape* or love-based community, still lives and empowers us to care about others and to minister and to empower, from that day to this very minute.

In light of the fact that the Holy Spirit made and makes possible the existence of the Church, the Feast of Pentecost is considered to be the birthday of the Church:

- the day on which we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit of God;
- the energy that keeps the Church in existence;

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VISION STATEMENT

A Church - Transformed,
United, Victorious in
Christ

MISSION STATEMENT

By the grace of God, we seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ; without distinction, we use all that we possess to call all peoples to the truth of the Gospel through worship, evangelism, discipleship and service

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- the voice that speaks to us when we are very quiet inside;
- the bearer to us of what God created us to hear and what Jesus wanted us to learn.

Pentecost is the Church's celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It comes from the realization that God's very life, breath and energy lives in, with and among us. Those who are Christians experience this life through Jesus because they see the Spirit so fully manifest in him. If you attend church on Pentecost or Whit Sunday, you will most likely hear read a passage from John's Gospel (20:19-23). It tells of a visit of the Risen Christ to the disciples huddled in fear following his crucifixion. "Peace be with you," Jesus says. "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and added, "Receive the Holy Spirit." The breath, the life of Jesus himself was breathe upon them. We are God-breathed. Pentecost celebrates that reality.

The feast day of Pentecost which comes 50 days after Easter, remembers a day not long after Jesus' resurrection when the energy of the Spirit was poured out in power upon the Church. It was a unifying Spirit that crossed the artificial boundaries of language, race, colour, worship style and culture. People could speak and be understood; strangers heard one another; communion happened. The Spirit breathes peace.

Here's what seems to happen when people allow this divine Spirit to energize them. Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control will flow naturally from their lives.

We call that the "fruit of the Spirit." It's a description of the qualities of Jesus. That's who we are and whom we are to become.

The celebration of Pentecost moves very naturally into the following Sunday's celebration of the Holy Trinity, the unique way that Christians describe our experience of God. We see the life of the Trinity as descriptive of the whole of reality: God's pouring out of the divine life in self-emptying love we call the Father.

God's complete and open receiving and responding to that love we call the Son.

The very awareness of that flow of love between one and the other, which values it with infinite worth and bliss we call the Spirit. Yet all is one complete love.

For instance, I experience the Trinity and the Spirit in my relationship with my wife. There is a love that I have and give to her, and a love that she receives and responds to by returning to me.

But more than that, after 241/2 years of marriage, there is something that exists between us, a reality, a Spirit of love that sees our relationship and values it profoundly with humility and joy. Sometimes I pinch myself to be so blessed to live in such love. Love given, love received, and love valued. Yet it is all one love. That's breathing the Spirit of God.

As we celebrate Pentecost on May 23, 2010, may the Spirit so empower us that there will be a Spirit of Peace, Unity, Communion and Purpose as we seek to walk with each other and the Lord.

Pentecost awakes us to the realities of what God is able to do with us. He can transform and empower us as instruments of light to a darkened world. The Moravian Church having had its Pentecost experience on August 13, 1727, is challenged to continue to walk in the light of the Lord. May this Pentecost truly bring Peace, Unity and Communion amongst us.



St. Christopher Children's Home Honours Bro. Samuel Nathaniel

On Sunday 11th April, 2010, members of the St Christopher Children's Home and former children of that institution joined members of the Zion congregation in their regular morning service. One of the primary objectives of the visiting group was to honour one of Zion's stalwarts, Brother Samuel Nathaniel, for his outstanding contribution over the years, while serving as a Board member of the Children's Home.



Bro. Samuel Nathaniel receiving honour

The extracts which are italicised below, were taken from the short address made by Ms Marlene Liburd, former Chairperson of the Board in excess of twelve years. Her words highlighted the high esteem in which Brother Nathaniel was viewed, as he willingly made his contribution to the Home and by extension to the lives of the children who passed through that institution.

*Brother Nathaniel served with distinction and dedication; he was a stabilising force within the organization,
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his vast experience in the public and private sectors enabled him to provide guidance and make suggestions that were thoughtful, thought-provoking and profound. He brought to the table a different slant to many of our discussions.

Ms Liburd indicated that Bro Nathaniel, as he is affectionately called, taught her to 'skilfully use tact rather than acting on emotions'. She further indicated that most times he was able to 'find a calm within the storm', while dealing with issues which arose during Board meetings.



Ms. Liburd

His love and concern for the welfare of the children and staff were very evident. The time he dedicated to the Home, especially as

Treasurer, cannot be calculated in currency. It was his way of giving something back to society.

1st Peter 4 vs. 10 says 'Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received'. This is what Bro Nat has done and continues to do. He is generous, caring, loving and a true gentleman.

In responding to the surprise visit of the Group and the presentation, Bro Nathaniel, who was obviously humbled and surprised, indicated that in listening to Ms Liburd, he thought he was listening to his eulogy.

Our stalwarts in society and the church need to be given their flowers while they are living so that they could be aware that someone appreciates their sterling contributions and their sacrifices in their zest to help others.

How the St. Christopher Children's Home Began

Extracts from the brief historical account of the Home, given by Mr Jeremiah Webbe, a former resident of the Home and now Attorney-at-Law (residing and practising in Nevis) are outlined below.

This country is presently in the athletic season and all over St Kitts and Nevis there is some sort of sporting activity either entertaining us or in which we are participants. There were the Inter-Primary Sports Meet and the CARICOM Social Security Games in St Kitts and the Inter-Primary Sports Schools Mini-Olympics in Nevis, not to mention the just-concluded CARIFESTA Games in the Cayman Islands.

The Christian way of life has been likened to an army. For St Paul, however, it is also a race. He admonished us to ignore the past, and concentrate on what is in front of us, in order to obtain our reward. Press forward, he said, toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus [Phillip 3:13&14]. The

relay is the best example of such a race, where one athlete runs to another to whom he hands the baton who in turn passes it on. And so we are really celebrating the time when Bro. Nathaniel took the baton, ran with it for twenty-five years and no doubt will pass it on to another.

Putting this morning's proceedings in their proper historical and sociological context will, I believe, help us understand better the origins of Bro. Nathaniel's contribution to the children of the Children's Home and by extension to all children in this country.

In the late 1940's and 1950's St. Kitts subsisted principally on a sugar-based economy, relying upon a multiplicity of sugar estates on which men and women worked long hours for low wages. They rose very early in the morning; walked long distances to their work places; laboured manually very hard in the hot sun; suffered from hard, chapped and split heels; lived in shanty-town wooden houses; caught water in buckets from public stand pipes, which they carried however far on their heads to their homes.

They had no electricity, they used kerosene oil lamps at night and cooked on coalpots made and shipped from a Nevis Newcastle Pottery.

Sanitarily, they used outdoor pits dug by the Public Health Department or the cane fields or filthy public toilets and baths. Their garbage became mountains on the designated drop-off point on the road while waiting collection by the dump truck, thereby creating a stench and attracting hundreds of flies. Diseases, therefore, were plentiful. There were tuberculosis (TB), malaria, measles, chickenpox, whooping cough, elephantiasis (Big Foot), and chiga.

Parents loved their children dearly and cautioned them to stay out of trouble and learn their lesson, but this did not feed them with enough and nourishing food so there was a touch of malnutrition here and there with infants appearing with big bellies; and those who were at school went home to a lunch of a piece of bread and sugared water called 'bebrige'. And, thus, scarce and potentially valuable human resources were being lost because of the existing social and economic circumstances.

Into this cess pit of social degradation jumped the Service League, the first, if not the only, Non-Governmental Organisation in the social welfare field at this time. And the hymn I associate most with them, as their signature tune or the battle hymn of their republic is 'Rescue the Perishing; Snatch them in pity, Lift up the fallen, the poor child to receive. Down in the human heart, crushed by poverty, feelings lie buried that love can restore. Touched by a loving

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wakened by kindness, bodies that were broken will vibrate once more'.

What did the Service League do to rescue those who were perishing and care for them before the country had lost them forever? They did two things. With their Million Penny Fund, created by the donations from the generous people of St. Kitts, they created a School Children's Lunchroom at Irish Town and founded the St. Christopher Children's Home at Fortlands. And while the Children's Home is now history, the lunchroom in its day provided a hot and substantial cooked lunch for hundreds of pupils from the St. Johnston Village, Irish Town, Basseterre Boys and Girls and Newtown Elementary Schools by giving tickets to these schools for distribution during the school week to their needy pupils. And it must have been quite a sight to see these armies of school children marching from their respective schools and converging at the Irish Town Lunchroom!

And who were these visionaries, these members of the Service League, and over the years to the present time, their assistants and associates? They were Millie Neverson, who was associated with a Children's Home in Bermuda, Gertrude Spence, Alma Southwell, Myrtle Woods, Vida Horsford-Byas, Miss Beach, Doris Lloyd, Mildred Maynard, John Horsford, Mr. Procopé of the Daily Bulletin Newspaper, Major Dinzey, Agnes Skerritt, Vincent Byron, Maurice Woods and, of course, Dr. Boyd who for many years gave free dental services to the children of the Children's Home.

This is the context in which we are today celebrating Brother Nathaniel's 25 years of service to the Board and children of the Children's Home, for which we thank him enormously!



Moravian Music Sunday



Sunday May 02, 2010 is Moravian Music Sunday. On this Sunday it is expected that the worship will highlight Moravian composers and musicians. You are therefore asked to select Moravian hymns and possibly give the story of the hymns as part of the worship. In addition, endeavour to engage all the musical talent of members of your congregation.

play as many instruments as possible. As a Church, we need to encourage our members to compose music and In addition, we should endeavour to allow members to exercise their gifts in the Sanctuary.

News from PEC's Meeting

- ◆ Unity Board Meeting will take place in Alberta, Canada from October 1-8, 2010. The head of each Province is expected to attend and present an up to date report on that province.
- ◆ The PEC at its recently held meeting decided that the 30th Provincial Synod will be held in St Thomas, Virgin Islands, It will convene from Friday July 13 - Saturday July 21, 2012. The early date is to facilitate delegates to be elected early so that the relevant US Visa can be applied for early.
- ◆ A total of 30 women from the EWIP have booked to participate in the Guyana Province's Women's Conference from July 21-25, 2010.
- ◆ Minister's in Training will engage in their Summer Assignments in the following Conferences:
 - Onita Samuel in the Virgin Islands
 - Martin Taylor in Antigua

The Haiti Relief Offering

The following amounts were collected from the various Conferences of the Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church for the Haiti Relief Offering:

Barbados	BDS\$22,542.00
Trinidad	TT\$ 7,817.00
St. Kitts	EC\$ 6,727.12
Tobago	EC\$ 9,700.59
Antigua	EC\$27,249.89
Virgin Islands	US\$17,778.81

EC\$125,224.39

The Funds were divided between these three organizations as follows:

1. Emmanuel International Canada - USD\$15, 363.64

2. The Antigua Disaster Relief Response 2010 (Caricom Haiti Fund) - USD\$ 15, 459.80
3. Board of World Mission - USD\$ 15, 459.80 or EC\$ 41,741.46

Emmanuel International Canada received USD\$96.16 less because of the Bank charges at the Bank.

The presentation to the Antigua Haiti Response 2010 (Caricom Haiti Fund) was done on Wednesday April 07, 2010, in Antigua. The other presentations were done on April 14, 2010.

The Greenbay Moravian Sunday school Donated EC\$2500.00 towards the Haiti Fund on April 27, 2010.



Greenbay Sunday School presents cheque to Chairman of PEC to go towards Haiti Relief Fund 2010.

Thanks to the entire Provincial Family, for the wonderful response given to this appeal.

Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving Service was held in honour of Rev George Nathaniel Bedford on Sunday April 11, 2010 at the Memorial Moravian Church in St. Thomas.

The Chairman of the Provincial Elders Conference Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis brought greetings on behalf of the Province. Sis. Mary Harley brought greetings on behalf of the Executive Board - Moravian VI Conference, Sis. Arabella Glasford on behalf of the Memorial Moravian Congregation and other Congregations.

The evening concluded with a Reception at the Leona Benjamin Fellowship Hall.



1 to r Superintendent VI Conf. Rev. W. Kirton-Roberts, Rev. G. Bedford Sis. J. Bedford and Rev. Dr. C. Jarvis Chairman of

VI Conference Staff Retreat April 23-25

by The Rev. W. Kirton Roberts Superintendent

After a drama-laden Friday, the staff of the Virgin Island Conference arrived safely in Tortola. We were cordially welcomed by a warm and hospitable staff which quickly erased the stress and exhaustion which came from our mad rush to catch the ferry and our long wait in the immigration department. After a scrumptious supper we proceeded to get “the business” out of the way before bed time.

Using the Lectio Divinia skill of reading and meditating on God’s Word, Rev Errol Connor read Matthew 11:25-30. It was Jesus’ call to his disciples to come unto him all who labour and are heavy laden and he will give us rest. This prayerful reflection set the tone for our first session which was a vigorous discussion on our personal experience on the Provincial Theme Pursuing the Blessing.

Our first facilitator for the Retreat was Fr Ronald Branch of the Anglican Church who reminded of the importance of taking care of self and family. Using personal examples he encouraged pastors to guard against burn out which does not only destroy their lives but their families. Pastors were challenged to have a daily routine of physical exercise, make conscious decisions on what they eat and make family time priority. He encouraged each caregiver to find something to do that he/she truly enjoys outside of the context of Church.

The next session “Alone with God” was led by Rev Deacon Esther Georges who exposed us to various techniques in Christian meditation. She reminded us of Jesus’ example of going away alone and listening to the voice of God. With classical music as the ambience we closed our eyes to the distractions of the world and listened attentively to God as we relaxed. This was supplemented by a walk in the lush greenery as we communed with the Lord.

At our Cup of Covenant in the evening not only did we pray earnestly for one another but we renewed our commitment to our call by God. Led by Bro Winston Chase, we were reminded of the original purpose of the Cup of Covenant and why we must continue to reflect in our lives the love for God and God’s people.

Together as staff we worshipped on Sunday morning at Tortola Moravian fellowship. The worship was spiritually refreshing and it was great to sit and receive from the Lord. We were inspired by a presentation by the Architect who informed the Church of the approved plans by the Town and Country planning to construct the Tortola Moravian Church. He further outlined the next phase of the development. Each Pastor was challenged to join in a small circle of prayer with the members to encourage them and assure them of our support for the work. Lunch with the members of the fellowship was followed by our departure the afternoon to our various islands. The Retreat enriched our fellowship, strengthened our faith and gave us renewed zeal. Our wrestling with

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pastoral concerns around the meal tables, and our loud laughter emanating from late night conversations outside of our rooms, made it all worthwhile. We proposed that this will be an annual occurrence and the next time we hope to take up the offer to retreat on a yacht.



Condolences

The Provincial family expresses sympathy to:

- ◆ The Rev Adrian Smith and Family on the passing of his Grandfather Arnold Cuthbert St. Hill. He passed into the nearer presence of God on Wednesday March 31, 2010, in Barbados. The Funeral Service was held at the Mt. Tabor Moravian Church on Friday April 09, 2010.
- ◆ The Rev. Adelyn Mgonela and her children on the passing of her Mother-in-law and Grandmother of her children Mrs. Sara Namayomba Mgonela on April 13, 2010. Funeral service was held on April 16, 2010 in Tanzania.
- ◆ The Rev. Hilton and Mrs. Sharon Joseph on the passing of her Mother Mrs. McCardy on Saturday April 17, 2010. The Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday April 27, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at the Montgomery Moravian Church in Tobago.
- ◆ We lift up the Tobago Conference in Prayer following a number of recent deaths. Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts has reported that the Treasurer of Black Rock Moravian Church Sis. Annette Mills died suddenly and will be buried on April 29, and Raenelle Holder, the Youth member the province had been praying for, died April 28, 2010.

Let up lift up these families in prayer at this time of bereavement.



For the Month of May to:

Bro. Samuel Jacobs	8
Bro. Patmore Smith	10

Sis. Ivy Vessup	10
Bro. Adrian Lewis	21
Sis. Cleatus Bowers-Jones	21
Sis. Deborah Challenger	27



For the Month of May to:

Bro. Adrian and Sis. Andrea Smith	14
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FUN CORNER

To My Loving Wife

A couple from Minneapolis decided to go to Florida for a long weekend to thaw out during one particularly icy winter. Because both had jobs, they had difficulty coordinating their travel schedules. It was decided that the husband would fly to Florida on a Thursday, and his wife would follow him the next day. Upon arriving as planned, the husband checked into the hotel. There he decided to open his laptop and send his wife an e-mail back in Minneapolis. However, he accidentally left off one letter in her address, and sent the e-mail without realizing his error.

In Houston, a widow had just returned from her husband's funeral. He was a minister of many years who had been 'called home to glory' following a heart attack. The widow checked her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. Upon reading the first message, she fainted and fell to the floor. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife
 From: Your Departed Husband
 Subject: I've Arrived!

I've just arrived and have checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

(P.S. Sure is hot down here!)